What is claimed is:

1. An image forming method comprising:

applying an image processing for forming an optimum viewing image on an output medium to captured-image data outputted from an image-capturing device; wherein a process of the image processing comprises:

a scene-referred image data generation process for generating scene-referred image data on the basis of the captured-image data; and

a viewing image referred image data generation process for generating viewing image referred image data on the basis of the generated scene-referred image data;

wherein, the image processing comprises:

- a smoothing processing and a sharpening processing.
- 2. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the smoothing processing is practiced in the scene-referred image data generation process and the sharpening processing is practiced in the viewing image referred image data generation process.

- 3. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the smoothing processing is practiced in the scene-referred image data generation process and the sharpening processing is practiced after the viewing image referred image data have been generated in the viewing image referred image data generation process.
- 4. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the smoothing processing is practiced at first and a sharpening processing is practiced next, in the scene-referred image data generation process.
- 5. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the smoothing processing is applied to the scene-referred image data generated in the scene-referred image data generation process, and the sharpening processing is practiced in the viewing image referred image data generation process.
- 6. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the smoothing processing is applied to the scene-referred image data generated in the scene-referred image data generation process, and the sharpening processing is practiced to

viewing image referred image data generated in the viewing image referred image data generation process.

- 7. An image processing apparatus which applies image processing for forming an optimum viewing image on an output medium to captured-image data outputted from an image-capturing device comprising:
- a scene-referred image data generation section for generating scene-referred image data on the basis of the captured-image data;
- a viewing image referred image data generation section for applying an image processing for optimizing the scene-referred image data to generate viewing image referred image data:
- a smoothing processing section for applying a smoothing processing; and
- a sharpening processing section for applying a sharpening processing.
- 8. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the scene-referred image data generation section includes the smoothing processing section for applying a smoothing processing to the captured-image data, and the viewing image

referred image data generation section includes the sharpening processing section for applying a sharpening processing to the scene-referred image data.

- 9. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the scene-referred image data generation section includes the smoothing processing section for applying a smoothing processing to the captured-image data, and the viewing image referred image data generation section includes the sharpening processing section for applying a sharpening processing to the generated viewing image referred image data.
- 10. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the viewing image referred image data generation section includes the smoothing processing section for practicing a smoothing processing and the sharpening processing section for practicing a sharpening processing in the generation process of the viewing image referred image data by the viewing image referred image data generation section.
- 11. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the scene-referred image data generation section includes the

smoothing processing section for applying a smoothing processing to the generated scene-referred image data, and the viewing image referred image data generation section includes the sharpening processing section for applying a sharpening processing to the scene-referred image data having been subjected to the smoothing processing.

- 12. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the scene-referred image data generation section includes the smoothing processing section for applying a smoothing processing to the generated scene-referred image data, and the viewing image referred image data generation section includes the sharpening processing section for applying the sharpening processing to the generated viewing image referred image data.
- 13. An image recording apparatus which applies image processing for forming an optimum viewing image on an output medium to captured-image data outputted from an image-capturing device, and outputs the optimum viewing image on the output medium comprising:

a scene-referred image data generation section for generating scene-referred image data on the basis of the captured-image data;

a viewing image referred image data generation section for applying an image processing for optimizing the scene-referred image data to generate viewing image referred image data;

- a smoothing processing section for applying a smoothing processing; and
- a sharpening processing section for applying a sharpening processing.
- 14. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein the scene-referred image data generation section includes the smoothing processing section for applying a smoothing processing to the captured-image data, and the viewing image referred image data generation section includes the sharpening processing section for applying a sharpening processing to the scene-referred image data.
- 15. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein the scene-referred image data generation section includes the smoothing processing section for applying a smoothing

processing to the captured-image data, and the viewing image referred image data generation section includes the sharpening processing section for applying a sharpening processing to the generated viewing image referred image data.

- 16. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein the viewing image referred image data generation section includes the smoothing processing section for practicing a smoothing processing and the sharpening processing section for practicing a sharpening processing in the generation process of the viewing image referred image data by the viewing image referred image data generation section.
- 17. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein the scene-referred image data generation section includes the smoothing processing section for applying a smoothing processing to the generated scene-referred image data, and the viewing image referred image data generation section includes the sharpening processing section for applying a sharpening processing to the scene-referred image data having been subjected to the smoothing processing.

- 18. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein the scene-referred image data generation section includes the smoothing processing section for applying a smoothing processing to the generated scene-referred image data, and the viewing image referred image data generation section includes the sharpening processing section for applying the sharpening processing to the generated viewing image referred image data.
- 19. The image forming apparatus of claim 1, wherein the smoothing processing is carried out by means of a filter to change mask sizes, mask shapes, and threshold values, on the basis of the noise characteristic of image data.
- 20. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the smoothing processing is carried out by means of a filter to change mask sizes, mask shapes, and threshold values, on the basis of the noise characteristic of image data.
- 21. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein the smoothing processing is carried out by means of a filter to change mask sizes, mask shapes, and threshold values, on the basis of the noise characteristic of image data.

- 22. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with a kind of the output medium.
- 23. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with a kind of the output medium.
- 24. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with a kind of the output medium.
- 25. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with a size of the output medium.
- 26. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with a size of the output medium.

- 27. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with a size of the output medium.
- 28. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with the size of a main photographic object.
- 29. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with the size of a main photographic object.
- 30. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with the size of a main photographic object.
- 31. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with a photographed scene.

- 32. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with a photographed scene.
- 33. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein an amount of application of the sharpening processing is adjusted in accordance with a photographed scene.
- 34. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the captured-image data outputted from the image-capturing device are the scene-referred image data.
- 35. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the captured-image data outputted from the image-capturing device are the scene-referred image data.
- 36. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein the captured-image data outputted from the image-capturing device are the scene-referred image data.
- 37. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the captured-image data outputted from the image-capturing device are scene-referred raw data.

- 38. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the captured-image data outputted from the image-capturing device are the scene-referred raw data.
- 39. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein the captured-image data outputted from the image-capturing device are the scene-referred raw data.
- 40. The image forming method of claim 1, wherein the captured-image data outputted from the image-capturing device are the viewing image referred image data.
- 41. The image processing apparatus of claim 7, wherein the captured-image data outputted from the image-capturing device are the viewing image referred image data.
- 42. The image recording apparatus of claim 13, wherein the captured-image data outputted from the image-capturing device are the viewing image referred image data.